

Leserreise Luxemburg Times: Through her eyes – Women's trip to India

Encounters in the land of the Maharajas

11 days
02.03. – 12.03.2025

10-14
participants

from/to Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG TIMES



Experience
culture

The world-famous and incomparable Taj Mahal, the magnificent tomb of Humayun, and the Mughal fortress in Agra tell of famous women and their stories. Women's modern India also has a lot to say. On this trip you will see the classic highlights in Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Mumbai (Bombay). In the premises of an NGO, you will get to know projects that are dedicated to the education of underprivileged women. In the house of a noble family, you not only look into the cooking pots, but also into the lives of modern Indian women. While having high tea with Indian women, you can chat about Indian and European cultures. You will be enchanted by the colours and scents of the local markets, take a tuk-tuk tour with other women, look over the shoulders of traditional craftsmen, stroll through exclusive fashion boutiques and shake and laugh at the Bollywood dance workshop!



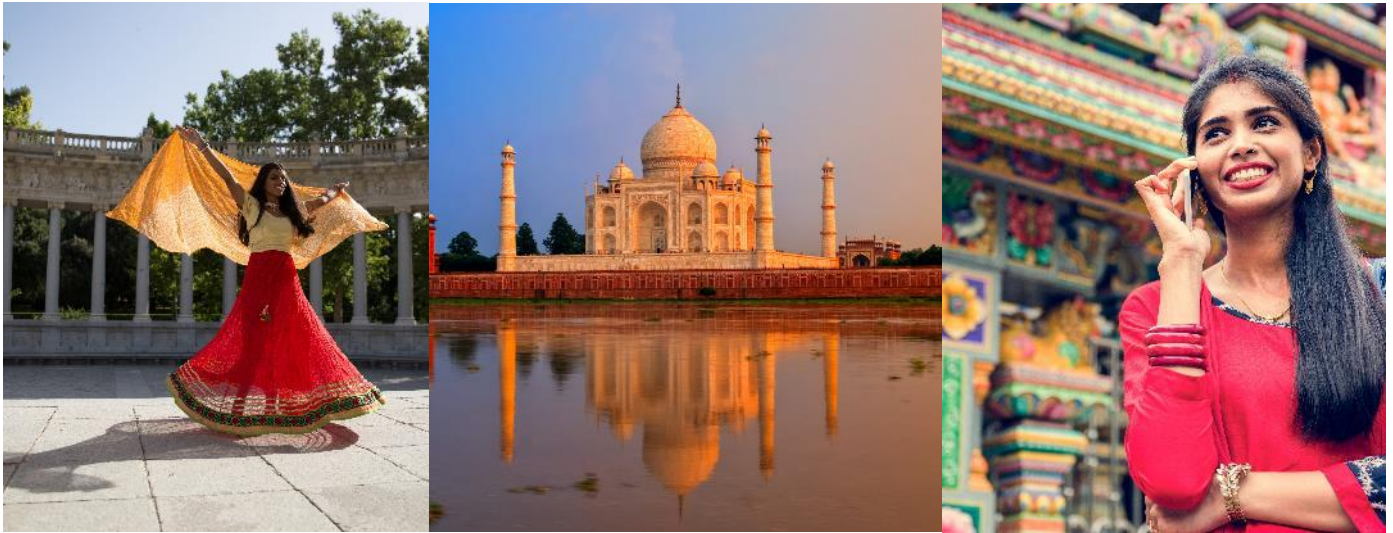
Our *****accommodations are stylish and special, sometimes modern, sometimes "palace-like", the included meals are taken in restaurants with a lot of flair.






Authentic and sustainable

- CO₂ compensation for flights and country-based services (2877 kg per passenger) via Atmosfair
- Visit to a community-based project (NGO) that focuses on women's education.
- Interactions and exchange with local people: high tea with a local family, dinner with Indian women, exchange with local teachers, cooking class with Indian women.
- Overnight stays in hotels from an Indian hotel chain with a sustainability program and LEED® certifications.




Travel itinerary

 Breakfast

 Lunch

 Lunchbox / Picnic

 Dinner

 Tasting

 Night

Day 1

Off to India

Bus transfer Luxembourg/Glaciis-Frankfurt Airport. At 1:15 p.m. you take off with Lufthansa from Frankfurt to New Delhi (flight time approx. eight hours).

Day 2

Delhi: Old Delhi and the women

Upon arrival at 1:30 a.m. you will be greeted and taken to the hotel. Your program begins with lunch in a modern restaurant with regional and seasonal specialties near the craft market. On the rickshaw tour through the narrow streets of Old Delhi, you will get to know the capital's more than 2,000-year history. The ancient and still thriving bazaar Chandi Chowk was built by the Mughal princess Jahanara, daughter of the famous Shah Jahan and one of the most powerful women in the Mughal court. The walk through the aromatic spice market Khari Baoli turns into an Eldorado for your nose. Colors and smells numb the senses, the scent of cardamom and allspice hangs in the air. Next, visit the magnificent Indo-Persian style tomb of Humayun (UNESCO World Heritage Site). The Garden Tomb, one of the most beautiful in Asia, is considered a forerunner of the incomparable Taj Mahal. The widow of the second Mughal emperor Humayun had it built for her husband in the 16th century; it is one of the few monuments commissioned by a woman for her husband. The welcome dinner in a stylish palace ambience will pamper your taste buds with delicacies from Old Delhi and the rich Mughlai cuisine. Pure enjoyment and a perfect start to the trip.



Overnight stay at the Hotel ITC Maurya***** in New Delhi

Travel itinerary

Day 3

Delhi: Women's Education in India – visiting an NGO, boutique hopping



As a local NGO, "Literacy India" meets the social needs of the country. The non-profit organization takes care of educating underprivileged women so that they can act independently in today's modern India. You will gain insights into various ongoing projects and have the opportunity to work on a project. A very exciting visit that makes you think and where you can actively give something back to society. You will eat today's lunch in the form of a lunch box in the NGO's premises. You will then visit some of New Delhi's exclusive fashion boutiques with your tour guide. Alternatively, there is the option of spending the afternoon in the NGO and continuing to work on one of the projects with the women. In the evening you can exchange impressions of the day over Indian specialties.

Overnight stay at Hotel ITC Maurya*****



Day 4

Delhi – Agra, Agra-Fort and high tea with Indian women



After breakfast you set off for Agra, the former capital of the powerful Mughals (approx. 220 kilometers / travel time approx. five hours). After arrival, you will check in and have lunch. In the afternoon you will visit the majestic complex of the Agra Fort (UNESCO World Heritage Site), whose construction began under Akbar the Great. The ensemble with its exquisite palaces, courtyards, pleasure gardens, pavilions and mosques is undoubtedly one of the masterpieces of Mughal architecture. The living areas and mahals of Jahanara and Roshanara show the influence of women in the Mughal period. Shah Jahan's two daughters played important roles in politics at that time. Time for a tea break: at high tea with homemade snacks in a private house, you will learn more about Indian culture, beliefs and value systems from your hostesses. A short walk takes you to the workshops of the artisans whose ancestors once built the Taj Mahal. Pietra Dura marble inlays and artistic zardozi embroidery are still produced here today. In the evening, dine at a famous restaurant whose ethnic cuisine is inspired by the bold flavors of the Northwest region.

Overnight stay at Hotel ITC Mughal***** in Agra



Travel itinerary

Day 5

Agra: Taj Mahal at sunrise, drive Agra – Jaipur



“Watch the sunrise over the Taj Mahal (UNESCO World Heritage Site) – an unforgettable experience. Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan built this stunning architectural marvel of white marble inlaid with semi-precious Pietra Dura stones to house the mortal remains of his beloved Mumtāz Mahal. The story of the Taj Mahal tells of the power of the queen, who was also known as “the power behind the throne” (Mumtāz Mahal means “The Excellence of the Palace”). You return to the hotel to have a leisurely breakfast and enjoy the spirit of this opulent resort before continuing your journey through rural Rajasthan to Jaipur (approx. 245 kilometers / driving time approx. six hours). On the way you will have lunch in a cozy garden pavilion. The “pink” city got its nickname after the buildings of the old town were painted a pink shade on the orders of Maharaja Ram Singh in 1876 to welcome the Prince of Wales and Queen Victoria on their visit to India. The coloring has been retained to this day to distinguish Jaipur from other cities in the country. Dinner in a stylish restaurant serving traditional Rajasthani cuisine.



Overnight stay at Hotel ITC Rajputana***** in Jaipur

Day 6

Jaipur: Amber Fort, visit to a primary school, Hawa Mahal, palace life and dinner with a local noble family



The name of the Amber Fort (Amber Fort) is derived from the goddess Amba Mata (Mother Earth), who was worshiped at this place (before the construction of the fort) by the local tribes. The magnificent fortress palace with richly decorated rooms sits high on a fortified hill. Clear Mughal influences can be seen in the architecture of the building, which was started by a Rajput general in the 16th century. After the tour, you will visit a primary school in a nearby village. When you exchange ideas with the teachers, you will get to know the Indian school system. Back in Jaipur, the Palace of Winds (Hawa Mahal) tells the story of the “Purdah System” (Purdah = Veil). The honeycomb-shaped facade shows how the royal women followed what was happening in the streets around 1600: They looked through inconspicuous barred windows without being seen – because they were forbidden to be seen by strangers. Together you will stroll through the colorful streets and watch the craftsmen (embroidery, Gota, Kinari, block printing fabrics) at work in their workshops in the oldest parts of the Pink City. Afterwards there is free time to explore for yourself. Jaipur is ideal for stocking up on fine materials – the magnificent capital of Rajasthan is a shopper’s paradise. During dinner in the hotel restaurant “Peshwari” you will once again enjoy the diverse flavors of northern India.



Overnight stay at Hotel ITC Rajputana*****



Travel itinerary

Day 7

Jaipur: Yoga, trip to the block printers, leisure or walk through Jaipur



Early in the morning there is the opportunity to relax your mind and invigorate your body with the ancient healing powers of yoga and meditation under the guidance of a yoga instructor (one hour). Body, mind and soul are connected, you feel fresh and free. Later you take a short trip (travel time approx. one hour each way) to Bagru and learn about the unique art of block printing. With the guidance of a mentor, you'll print your own artwork to take home as a souvenir of your trip. After lunch in a local restaurant, you go on a lively tuk-tuk tour - the special thing about it: the tuk-tuks are driven by women and together with them you see Jaipur with different eyes. Then visit the City Palace Museum. The extensive complex of palaces, gardens and courtyards houses, among other things, the residences of the current royal family of Jaipur. Beautifully painted doors, exquisite paintings and exhibits such as art, jewelry, textiles and traditional handicrafts showcase the splendor of the Maharajas. In the early evening you will experience a unique cooking demonstration in the house of a noble family. The educated and modern-minded women of the house attach great importance to reconciling modernity and tradition and continuing centuries-old traditions. You will try some local recipes and share your experiences. Dinner together will be an unforgettable experience full of joy and laughter while sharing the freshly prepared food.



Overnight stay at Hotel ITC Rajputana*****

Day 8

Jaipur – Mumbai, Mumbai:
Discoveries in the City of Dreams



You get up early and drive (approx. 45 minutes) to Jaipur airport for the approximately two-hour flight to Mumbai (Bombay). After arriving at 11:30 am, transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon you will get to know India's financial and trading center. Mumbai, the city of dreams, glamor and film, is a magnet for aspiring entrepreneurs. People from different ethnic backgrounds nurture their personal dream of success; their indefatigable spirit gives color and flavor to this multicultural city. The tour takes you to Mumbai's most popular seafront promenade and the Hanging Gardens on Malabar Hill, with views of the coast and Chowpatty Beach to Mani Bhawan. In Mahatma Gandhi's former home, you will talk about the relevance of Gandhian views for today's life. In the evening you will eat in a restaurant run by a woman who can dream differently and big. For the young graduate of Boston University, who was even included in the Forbes 30 under 30 list, fresh and healthy food is important, which is why the ingredients in many dishes come from her own farm.



Overnight stay at the Hotel ITC Grand Central***** in Mumbai

Travel itinerary

Day 9

Mumbai: Warli Art and Bollywood



Your day will be creative. You will get to know two art forms that are exemplary for Mumbai. Warli art is an important yet endangered tribal art form of India. Warli dates back to 2500 B.C. and uses a very simple vocabulary (a circle, a triangle and a square) to represent human life and indigenous customs and traditions. Together with an expert, you will create your own tribal artwork. Then things get fun: At a Bollywood dance workshop you will immerse yourself in the dance culture and learn a few steps of contemporary Indian dance. To the tune of "Hindi" Bollywood songs, you'll compete with your teachers and try your hand at the latkas and jhatkas for which Bollywood, the world's largest film industry, is famous. Once again you have lunch in a special restaurant where the motto is roughly "from farm to table". The restaurant owner studied in London and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales. If you're lucky, she'll be there, and you can chat with her for a bit. In the afternoon you explore the pulsating metropolis with your tour guide, who has exciting tips. In the evening, enjoy Mumbai and Konkani Coast dishes at a restaurant famous for its seafood. Located in a narrow alley near the fortress, the old-school eatery remains on the must-eat-here list of many local and international foodies.



Overnight stay at the Hotel ITC Grand Central****

Day 10

Mumbai: The magic of markets, fusion cuisine and fashion boutiques



The early bird catches the worm, as the saying goes. Today you are one of the early birds! You start your tour at dawn, immerse yourself in the magic of awakening Mumbai, experience the special atmosphere of the morning prayer hour and let yourself be enchanted by the authenticity of the moment. The bright colors, the fusion of flavors and the hustle and bustle of the vendors at the various markets are unique. You have breakfast at the hotel and enjoy some leisure time in the hotel. At lunchtime you will visit Mumbai's logisticians - the Dabbawalas or the Tiffin Boys. This unique lunch delivery service is quintessential Mumbai. The tiffin delivery system has many fans including Prince Charles and Richard Branson. Then learn something new: By combining Persian specialties with typical Indian spices, the Persians created gastronomic delicacies of a high level. During a cooking workshop including lunch in a Persian house, you will learn the intricacies of this fusion cuisine. Afterwards, you and your tour guide will visit some of Mumbai's exclusive fashion boutiques, the city is also known as the fashion capital of modern India. After an early dinner at the hotel, you will be taken to the airport (journey time approx. 1-1.5 hours) and say goodbye to India.

Day 11

Mumbai – Frankfurt

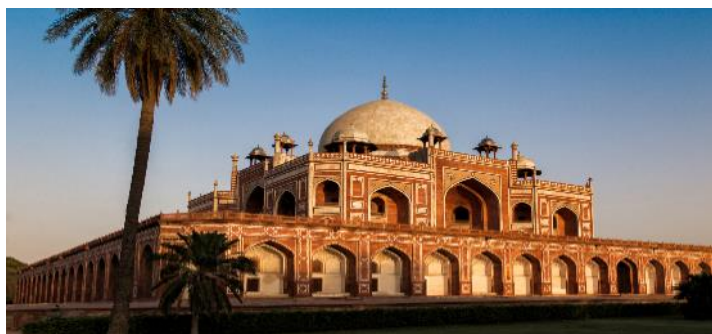
At 2:55 a.m. you fly with Lufthansa to Frankfurt (flight duration approx. nine hours, arrival 7:25 a.m.). Bus transfer from Frankfurt-Luxembourg/Glaciis

Program and flight times subject to change. The travel times stated are the actual travel time (excluding breaks and photo stops).

Included services:

- Bus transfers Luxembourg/Glaciis-Frankfurt-Luxembourg/Glaciis
- Flight with Lufthansa Frankfurt – Delhi / Mumbai – Frankfurt (Economy, fare class S/K, subject to availability)
- Flight with Indigo Jaipur – Mumbai (Economy Class, Fare Class Y, subject to availability)
- Airport fees and kerosene €495.00 (as of 03/2024)
- CO2 compensation for flights and country-based services via Atmosfair
- 3 nights at the Hotel ITC Maurya***** in New Delhi, in a double room (Executive Club Room) including breakfast
- 1 night at the Hotel ITC Mughal***** in Agra, in a double room (Mughal Chamber) including breakfast
- 3 nights at the Hotel ITC Rajputana***** in Jaipur, in a double room (Rajputana Chamber) including breakfast
- 3 nights at the Hotel ITC Grand Central***** in Mumbai, in a double room (Executive Club Room) including breakfast
- Day room (until airport transfer) on day 10
- 7x lunch, 1x lunch box, 9x dinner
- Transfers, excursions and sightseeing according to the program
- Local English speaking tour guide
- Travel literature
- English-speaking Planet B companion from/to Luxembourg

Not included are: Visa, Lufthansa seat reservations, tips and personal expenses, shuttle service from/to your place of residence, meals not mentioned in the itinerary, drinks, additional activities and excursions.



Prices (per person)

Double room	5.850,00 €
Single room	7.120,00 €

Minimum number of participants: 10, maximum number of participants: 14.

Shuttle service from/to your place of residence to/from the departure point of the bus on request

Visa/ETA (as of 03/2024)	50,00 €
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Important information

To enter India, EU citizens need a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the period of stay and a valid visa. The passport must be in good condition and have at least two blank pages. No compulsory vaccinations are required when entering directly from Luxembourg/Germany (as of June 2023). All Covid-19-related restrictions have currently been lifted. We would like to point out that this may change depending on the pandemic situation (as of June 2023).

For air travel, our sales prices are generally based on special tour operator tariffs of the airline(s) selected for the relevant trip. Therefore, the space available is limited; additional charges may apply for bookings made three months before the start of the trip.

All accommodations offer free WiFi, although network coverage is not always perfect. Please note that the hotels only offer non-smoking rooms. If some of the accommodations we have booked are unforeseen to be unavailable, we will book a (preferably) equivalent alternative.

With the travel documents you will receive further information about the trip and the destination country.

No insurance is included in the travel price. We strongly recommend taking out travel cancellation insurance that includes Covid-19 as well as appropriate travel health insurance that includes treatment (including quarantine) for Covid-19.

This trip is not suitable for guests with mobility issues. If necessary, please tell us the type of mobility restriction you have before booking and clarify with us whether we can meet your individual needs.

Planet B is a brand of Bollig Tours s. à r.l.. Bollig Tours is therefore named as the organizer in our general travel conditions.



The accommodations

Located in the heart of the Indian capital, the imposing **Hotel ITC Maurya******* is reminiscent of a Buddhist stupa with its stepped architecture. A towering bronze sculpture in the garden shows King Ashoka in his transformation from warrior to philosopher, while works by leading Indian artists are on display inside the hotel. The 26m² non-smoking rooms are equipped with air conditioning, satellite TV, safe, tea/coffee making facilities, minibar (payable locally) and free WiFi. Renewable energy is used, water is recycled and reused, solid waste is recycled, and a large proportion of the ingredients are sourced locally. The resort, which is certified with LEED® Platinum, claims to use significantly less energy than the benchmark set by the EPA, USA, for large luxury hotels.



In Agra you will stay overnight near the Taj Mahal in the **Hotel ITC Mughal*******. The luxurious resort with its extensive Mughal-style gardens, with the distinctive use of water canals, fruit trees, flowers and shady paths, is a fitting tribute to the great Mughal architects of the past. The ITC Mughal is the only Indian hotel to receive the prestigious Aga Khan Award for its outstanding representation of Mughal architecture. The elegantly furnished, approximately 32m² non-smoking rooms with garden views have air conditioning, a seating area with sofa, satellite TV, safe, minibar (payable locally), tea/coffee making facilities, and free WiFi. The resort uses renewable energy, water is recycled and reused, solid waste is recycled, and a large portion of ingredients are locally sourced. The resort is also LEED® Platinum and LEED® Zero Carbon certified and claims to use significantly less energy than the benchmark set by the EPA, USA for large luxury hotels.

The accommodations



Inspired by the imposing architecture of the traditional havelis of Rajasthan and located in the heart of the city, the elegant **Hotel ITC Rajputana******* in Jaipur invites its guests to immerse themselves in the romance and majesty of the royal era. Long corridors, cozy courtyards and the babbling of fountains are reminiscent of times long past. The elegantly furnished, approx. 30m2 non-smoking rooms with garden views have air conditioning, a seating area with sofa, satellite TV, safe, tea/coffee making facilities, minibar (for a fee) and free WiFi. This hotel is also LEED® Zero Carbon certified.

Inspired by the Victorian architecture of old Bombay, the **ITC Grand Central******* hotel in Mumbai pampers its guests with the charm of a bygone era. A beautiful romantic courtyard, the "Millsquare", divides the hotel into two areas - the towering "Peace Zone" and the low-lying "Celebration Zone". The 29m2, elegantly furnished non-smoking rooms with city views have air conditioning, a seating area with sofa, satellite TV, safe, tea/coffee making facilities, minibar (for a fee) and free WiFi. The hotel is LEED® Zero Carbon and LEED® Platinum certified.

